

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:  
asynchronously, ~~aperiodically~~ **but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and  
replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises periodically replicating, at a first frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node; and  
replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node to a data volume of a fourth node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node comprises periodically replicating, at a second frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said third node to said data volume of said fourth node; wherein  
said first frequency is higher than said second frequency.
2. **(Cancelled)**

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method comprising:  
asynchronously, **aperiodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and  
replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node; and  
replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node to a data volume of a fourth node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node comprises periodically replicating, at a first frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said third node to said data volume of said fourth node; and  
replicating data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node to a data volume of a fifth node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node comprises periodically replicating, at a second frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node to said data volume of said fifth node, wherein  
said first frequency is higher than said second frequency.
4. (Cancelled)
5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 3, wherein,  
said asynchronously, **aperiodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node comprises, asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of a primary node to a data volume of an intermediate node; and  
said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises, asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein,  
said asynchronously, ~~aperiodically~~ **but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to  
said data volume of said first node comprises asynchronously replicating data to  
be written to said data volume of said first node to said data volume of said  
second node using a first data link coupled between said first node and said  
second node;  
said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second  
node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume  
of said second node to said data volume of said third node using a second data  
link coupled between said second node and said third node; and  
said first data link has a higher bandwidth than said second data link.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:  
a first device for asynchronously, ~~aperiodically~~ **but not periodically**, replicating data to  
be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and  
a second device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node  
to a data volume of a third node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said  
data volume of said second node comprises periodically replicating, at a first  
frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said  
data volume of said third node; and  
a third device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node to a  
data volume of a fourth node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said  
data volume of said third node comprises periodically replicating, at a second  
frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said third node to said  
data volume of said fourth node, wherein  
said first frequency is higher than said second frequency.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

- a first device for asynchronously, ~~a~~**periodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and
- a second device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein said second device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises a device for asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node; and
- a third device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node to a data volume of a fourth node, wherein said third device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node comprises a device for periodically replicating, at a first frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said third node to said data volume of said fourth node; and
- a fourth device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node to a data volume of a fifth node, wherein said fourth device for replicating data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node comprises a device for periodically replicating, at a second frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node to said data volume of said fifth node, wherein said first frequency is higher than said second frequency.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein,

- said first device for asynchronously, ~~a~~**periodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node comprises,
  - a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to a data volume of a primary node to a data volume of an intermediate node; and
- said second device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises,

a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node.

13. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein said device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein,  
 said first device for asynchronously, **aperiodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node comprises a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node to said data volume of said second node using a first data link coupled between said first node and said second node;  
 said means for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises a device for asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node using a second data link coupled between said second node and said third node;  
 and  
 said first data link has a higher bandwidth than said second data link.

15. (Currently Amended) A set of machine-readable mediums collectively having a plurality of instructions executable by two or more machines, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said two or more machines to perform a method comprising:  
 asynchronously, **aperiodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and  
 replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises periodically replicating, at a first frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node; and

replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node to a data volume of a fourth node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node comprises periodically replicating, at a second frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said third node to said data volume of said fourth node; wherein said first frequency is higher than said second frequency.

16. (Cancelled)

17. **(Currently Amended)** A set of machine-readable mediums collectively having a plurality of instructions executable by two or more machines, wherein said plurality of instructions when executed cause said two or more machines to perform a method comprising: asynchronously, ~~aperiodically~~ **but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to a data volume of a first node to a data volume of a second node; and replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to a data volume of a third node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises asynchronously replicating said data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node; and replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node to a data volume of a fourth node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said third node comprises periodically replicating, at a first frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said third node to said data volume of said fourth node; and replicating data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node to a data volume of a fifth node, wherein said replicating data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node comprises periodically replicating, at a second frequency, said data to be written to said data volume of said fourth node to said data volume of said fifth node, wherein said first frequency is higher than said second frequency.

18. (Cancelled)

19. **(Currently Amended)** The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 17, wherein, said asynchronously, **aperiodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node comprises, replicating data to be written to a data volume of a primary node to a data volume of an intermediate node; and said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises, asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of a secondary node.
20. **(Previously Presented)** The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 19, wherein said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said intermediate node to a data volume of each of a plurality of secondary nodes.
21. **(Currently Amended)** The set of machine-readable mediums of claim 17, wherein, said asynchronously, **aperiodically but not periodically**, replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said first node to said data volume of said second node using a first data link coupled between said first node and said second node; said asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node comprises asynchronously replicating data to be written to said data volume of said second node to said data volume of said third node using a second data link coupled between said second node and said third node; and said first data link has a higher bandwidth than said second data link.
22. - 25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising an act writing the data to be written to the data volume of the first node to a replication log before asynchronously, ~~aperiodically~~ **but not periodically**, replicating the data to be written to the data volume of the first node to the data volume of the second node.